

**STATEMENT ON EQUITABLE ACCESS TO THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY  
of the 1st International PRISEAL Conference (Publishing and Presenting  
Research Internationally: Issues for Speakers of English as an Additional  
Language)**

**'The Tenerife Statement'** (January 2008)

**Preamble**

As part of the growing call for more just and equitable practices in the conduct and communication of research worldwide, the participants of the 1st PRISEAL Conference took the decision, in plenary session, to produce a statement for promulgation within the various professional communities we belong to and beyond. The conference brought together people from 14 countries interested in identifying and addressing issues that affect speakers of English as an Additional Language (EAL) as they seek to publish and present their research internationally. We met at the University of La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain, from 11-13 January 2007 and shared perspectives arising from professional experience in teaching, editing, researching, refereeing, publishing and translating.

**Body**

We, the participants of the 1st PRISEAL Conference, issue the following calls to the international community of knowledge producers and consumers, to governments (especially those of countries beyond the mainstream of international publishing, hereafter 'non-centre' countries<sup>1</sup>) and to international, regional and national governmental and non-governmental institutions.

1. Much has been done in the recent past to begin addressing issues of disadvantage, but much remains to be done. This statement seeks to acknowledge progress while also identifying remaining issues that affect us and our students, clients and colleagues.
2. We commend schemes designed to enhance the access of researchers in non-centre countries to published research findings, including HINARI (Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative, AGORA (Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture) and OARE (Online Access to Research in the Environment). However, we call for an urgent review of the eligibility criteria for these schemes in order to overcome inequities related to issues including national income figures inflated by commodities such as oil.
3. We commend publishing houses that produce and distribute research journals for moves they have made towards increased author support and journal development in some non-centre locations and allowing some of their journals to be available in some places following the ethos of the "Budapest Open Access Initiative". However, we believe that these moves currently fall far short of what is needed to provide appropriate and equitable access to published research and publication opportunities in non-centre locations. To this end we urge the publishing houses
  - a. to accelerate their efforts to provide online access to published journals at rates that are affordable by readers working outside the established Western academic systems, including at no cost where this is warranted (cf. International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications), as well as discounting the cost of books and hard-copy journals for libraries and individual researchers in non-centre locations.
  - b. to retain options for manuscript submission and subsequent negotiations to be conducted in hard copy or as e-mail attachments to facilitate submissions from locations where internet access is unreliable, intermittent or unavailable.
  - c. to ensure that their policies facilitate the inclusion of post-publication articles from their journals on institutional repositories or researchers' homepages.

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<sup>1</sup> By this term is meant countries where English is not a first language or a language of instruction in education, and/or where limitations in the material conditions for conducting and gaining access to academic research cause disadvantage in comparison to the mainstream research-producing countries.

4. We encourage professional organizations in all fields to ensure that access to their journals is not restricted, whether they publish them through a publishing house or independently. Such associations should provide open access to their issues either immediately or after a short interval and, as a first step, should develop a proactive stance of enhanced access for researchers, teachers and other facilitators of EAL researchers' communication in non-centre locations.

5. We strongly encourage all international professional and academic societies to introduce, or to continue and extend the practice of providing reduced registration fees at their conferences for researchers from non-centre locations, and to seek funding to provide grants to facilitate attendance at these conferences by non-centre researchers.

6. We propose that new regional editorial bodies be established in each region of the non-centre world (i.e. Latin America, Africa and Asia) to promote the refereed publication of research in new formats and in languages that suit the needs of the region. These bodies should be funded by national governments and international research and development agencies, and fully supported by the nations of the region. One demonstration of this support should be the granting of appropriate credit in academic assessment exercises for editing and refereeing work conducted for these bodies and for articles published by them.

7. We further propose that, when international forums are held to promote equitable practices in the conduct and communication of research, means be developed to effectively draw upon the relevant expertise of teachers and researchers of English for Academic Purposes and of providers of EAL support services.

In order to contribute to the improvements we desire we, as the PRISEAL community of conference participants and like-minded colleagues, will take the following actions:

1. Publish on our conference website a list of open-access alternatives to the traditional pay-per-issue/view journals whose cost structures are currently prohibitive for libraries, researchers, teachers and other EAL editorial support service providers working in non-centre contexts.

2. Seek to identify appropriate open-access publication outlets for the work of PRISEAL presenters submitting papers for publication, whether under the auspices of the Conference, or not.

3. Share through an open-access email list information regarding opportunities for access to articles and other publications of interest to our professional communities.

4. Participate in and encourage the development of open-access repository schemes for self-publishing and institutional archiving, taking full advantage of and publicising as appropriate the options provided by some publishers to deposit pre-print versions and/or personal revised copies of articles reflecting post-refereeing changes.

5. Seek to develop, as may be possible and appropriate within our respective professional lives, effective training options for novice referees of manuscripts submitted for international publication, with the goal of further consolidating a spirit of constructive advice and collegiality.

6. Proactively seek ways to maintain effective communication across the different areas of practice that were represented at the 2007 PRISEAL Conference, and to collaborate as appropriate in initiatives to move forward the agenda expressed in this Tenerife Statement.